

## **CLAIMS**

**I claim:**

**1. (Amended) A locking device for disabling normal coupler operations by restricting the movement of a lower latching plate of a gooseneck trailer coupler when the lower latching plate of the coupler is placed in a fully closed/latched position and the locking device is inserted into an opening created between a fixed upper plate and a band of the lower latching plate of the coupler, said locking device comprised of:**

**(a) a block of metallic material formed into specific shapes containing a tapered shaft with an offset portion and a block end:**

**(b) said tapered shaft being of precise form and containing holes of specific diameter and placement along the shaft:**

**(c) said tapered shaft containing an offset of precise form, dimensions and placement from the tip of said tapered shaft:**

**(d) said block end being of precise form, dimensions and placement from the tip of said tapered shaft.**